

## Expa-syl Temporary Gingival Retraction System (Project 01-11) (09/01)

Expa-syl is a noncord gingival retraction product recently marketed by the SDS/Kerr Company. It consists of a green-colored paste provided in glass cartridges similar in size and shape to anesthetic cartridges. A metal dispenser gun is used to express the paste through a disposable metal dispensing tip into the gingival sulcus prior to impression making or prosthesis cementation. The paste is left in place for one to two minutes and then removed by rinsing. SDS/Kerr claims that hemostasis is produced by the paste's aluminum chloride while tissue retraction is achieved by its semi-rigid consistency. One purported advantage of Expa-syl over cord is that since it is placed with little or no pressure, damage to the epithelial attachment is minimized. Also, the procedure is said to be faster than using cord.



### Manufacturer:

Sybron Dental Specialties/Kerr Corporation  
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Orange, CA 92867-9880  
(800) 537-7123  
(714) 516-7400  
(714) 516-7633 FAX  
[www.kerrdental.com](http://www.kerrdental.com)

### Suggested Retail Price:

\$464.00 Expa-syl Intro Kit (item number 31175) contains:  
-twenty 1-g capsules of retraction paste  
-application gun  
-40 applicator tips

### Government Price:

\$308.75 Expa-syl Intro Kit (item number and contents as listed above)

### ADVANTAGES:

- + Effectively achieves hemostasis.
- + Retracts gingival tissues effectively when used in appropriate cases.
- + Evaluators reported technique was less traumatic to tissues than cord packing.
- + Faster to use than traditional cord method of retraction.
- + Color of paste makes it easy to see during use.
- + Is easy to remove material from sulcus by rinsing.
- + Applicator gun is extremely well made.
- + Disposable dispenser tips can be bent for improved intraoral access.
- + Comes with videotape and well-illustrated instruction manual.
- + Paste cartridges have lot number and expiration date on them.

### DISADVANTAGES:

- Expensive.
- Is effective only under specific, limited conditions.
- The paste's thickness made it difficult for some evaluators to express it into the sulcus.
- Disposable metal dispenser tips are too large, making it difficult to express Expa-syl into the interproximal sulcus.
- Instructions describing dispenser gun use are incorrect.
- Product box is much larger than it needs to be.
- Not shipped with Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

DIS has rarely evaluated a product whose performance was so sensitive to placement technique and case selection. Expa-syl effectively produced hemostasis and was reported to produce adequate gingival retraction when the sulcular tissue was generous (i.e, the sulcus was of sufficient depth) and flexible. The most important requirement for it to function effectively at providing retraction, however, is that the tissue be absolutely dry during placement. Expa-syl's main advantages are that it takes less time to use and is less traumatic to the tissues than traditional retraction cord. The product is quite expensive, however, which makes it hard to justify given its limited clinical applications. The **Expa-syl Temporary Gingival Retraction System** is rated **Marginal** for use by the federal dental services.